



**Blue Mountain Forests Plan Revision Team
Public Affairs Specialist
GS-1035-9
Permanent Full-time Position (Possible Detail)
By May 15, 2015**

This outreach is for a fulltime permanent **Public Affairs Specialist, GS-1035-9** working on the Blue Mountain Forests Plan Revision in Baker City, Pendleton or John Day, Oregon. Most of the team is co-located in Baker City; however, this planning effort covers three national forests the Wallowa-Whitman, Umatilla, and Malheur. We may consider in the interim filling a detail position, as well. *If potential applicants need further information, please contact Sabrina Stadler, Forest Plan Revision Team Leader, at (541)523-1264, or sdstadler@fs.fed.us.*

Background

This position serves as Public Affairs Specialist for the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Team. The Revision effort has been collaborating with public, local, state, and tribal governments since 2004 to develop the revised plans. The planning documents include three separate forest plans, separate decision documents and a single Environmental Impact Statement covering the national forests. The public comment period on the DEIS ended Aug. 2014. The team has been reviewing the public comments, responding to public comments and working with the Forest Leadership to evaluate next steps and an engagement strategy.

The Position

The individual selected would be a member of the Forest Plan Revision interdisciplinary team, working closely with various interdisciplinary specialists including: the team leader, hydrologist, forester, NEPA Planner, outdoor recreation specialist, and public affairs officer. The individual would be responsible for supporting the public affairs officer, maintaining and developing websites and social media forums, Freedom of Information Act requests, project record database and performing writer-editor. The person may also work extensively with stakeholders to make recommendations for new and innovative approaches to resolving comments and concerns. Ideally, the person should have advanced word processing skills, Access, Excel, and experience creating and editing websites.

Thank you for your interest in our vacancy.

The Forest and Community

Forest—Wallowa- Whitman NF

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest is one of the largest forests in Region 6 with more than 2.3 million acres in three states and nine counties. The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest has a diverse program with high recreation use, several listed species, all or portions of four wilderness areas, grazing, mining, and a large fire program.

The Forest hosts three units comprised of five ranger districts in the communities of La Grande, Joseph, and Baker City. There are two satellite offices located in Riggins, Idaho and Clarkston, Washington. The Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center is located in La Grande and is staffed by employees from the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests and Oregon Department of Forestry. The Forest Leadership Team is comprised of the four district rangers, the customer services, engineering, natural resources and fire staff, the Deputy Forest Supervisor, and Forest Supervisor. Additional information on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest is available <http://www.fs.usda.gov/wallowa-whitman>

Forest—Malheur NF

The Malheur National Forest encompasses nearly a million and a half acres of wilderness, rangeland, and general forest in the majestic Blue Mountains of eastern Oregon. It sustains a diversity of vegetation ranging from juniper-sagebrush woodlands and bunchgrass grasslands to high elevation alpine forests of subalpine fir and whitebark pine. Extensive tracts of ponderosa pine, western larch, Douglas-fir, grand fir and lodgepole forests occur between the juniper/grassland foothills and alpine peaks. Elevations range from 4000 feet to 9038 feet atop beautiful Strawberry Mountain. The majority of the Forest lies in Grant and Harney counties, with portions in Baker and Malheur counties. State Highway 395 bisects the Forest north-to-south, and State Highway 26 from east-to-west. The Forest has 3 ranger districts at this time; Blue Mountain Ranger District and Prairie City Ranger District in the north, and the Emigrant Creek Ranger District to the south.

The Forest is located at the interface between the Great Basin and the Columbia Plateau cultural areas and contains significant cultural resources related to both cultures. It has one of the highest site densities in the Pacific Northwest with over 5,000 archaeological and historic sites documented to date. The dominant prehistoric sites are obsidian lithic scatters associated with the thirteen distinct obsidian sources located on the Forest. Historic sites associated with gold mining, ranching, railroad logging and Forest Service administration are also present. The Forest has an active and well supported Passport In Time volunteer program with a dedicated pool of regular volunteers.

Forest—Umatilla National Forest

The Umatilla National Forest consists of four Ranger Districts covering approximately 1.4 million acres. The name is taken from the Indian word meaning “water rippling over sand.” It is located in the beautiful Blue Mountains of northeastern Oregon and southeastern Washington adjacent to the Umatilla Indian Reservation. The Forest contains a variety of

Thank you for your interest in our vacancy.

conifers and a few hardwood tree species. Extensive rangeland is also allotted for cattle and sheep grazing. The Forest currently employs 170 permanent employees.

Hunting and fishing make up almost 50 percent of the recreation use on the Umatilla. Camping, picnicking, boating, hiking and riding horseback are also popular. The Forest has a large concentration of Rocky Mountain Elk. Mule deer and whitetail deer are also abundant. The Forest is also home to downhill ski areas and numerous cross country skiing trails. Snowmobiling is also permitted on the Forest. Three designated wilderness areas lie within the forest boundaries.

Community—Baker City

Surrounded to the west by the Elkhorn Mountains and to the northeast by the Wallowa Mountains, Baker City has an elevation of approximately 3,500 feet. It is located on Interstate 84 within 2 hours of the Tri Cities in Southeast Washington (Pasco, Richland, and Kennewick) and within 2 hours of Boise, Idaho. The population of Baker City is approximately 10,000.

House rentals range from \$700 per month and up. Apartment rentals start at \$400. Utility rates tend to be low. Average prices for 3 or 4 bedroom homes range from \$90,000 to \$200,000 plus.

Baker City is a full service community. The community has ties to Eastern Oregon University, Blue Mountain Community College and Treasure Valley Community College. There are 2 elementary schools, 1 middle school, and 1 high school located in Baker City. The School District has a record of educational excellence. Overall, results from the Oregon Statewide Assessment show that students in the Baker School District are above the state averages. In addition, there are 3 private or Christian schools available. Baker City has a newly remodeled 40-bed hospital with several local physicians, dentists, and specialists available.

Cultural opportunities include live local theater, vocal and instrumental performances, art galleries, Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, history museums, Miner's Jubilee, and a full calendar of special community events. The newly expanded Baker County Library contains 91,000 volumes with access to library resources statewide and an interlibrary loan system that provides access to an unlimited number of publications nationwide.

Baker City enjoys a dry climate with four distinct seasons. The weather changes from snowfall in the winter to warm dry days in the summer. Recreational opportunities abound with such activities as golfing, fishing, biking, skiing, boating, hunting, and beautiful scenery. Located on the Forest are the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, Anthony Lakes Ski Resort, several wilderness areas, numerous lakes, and 58 campgrounds and picnic areas.

Local Newspaper: Blue Mountain Eagle: <http://www.bluemountaineagle.com/>

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OUTREACH RESPONSE FORM

Blue Mountain Forests Plan Revision Team

Public Affairs Specialist, GS-1035-9

Permanent Fulltime Position (Possible Detail)

If you are interested in this position, please complete this form and send to sdstadler@fs.fed.us by **May 15, 2015** for the Permanent Position. In the interim we may consider a detail opportunity, if interested please respond below. If you do not have access to electronic mail, please complete the form and mail or fax to: **Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, PO Box 907, Baker City, OR 97814** or fax **541-523-6392** or call **Sabrina Stadler at 541-523-1264**.

PLEASE NOTE: The purpose of this Outreach Notice is to determine the potential for the permanent position, and if so to establish the appropriate recruitment method and area of consideration for the advertisement (e.g., target grade or multi-grade and service-wide, region-wide, government-wide, or DEMO). Responses received from this outreach notice will be relied upon to make this determination. Forest Service employees on the workforce reduction system (WRAPS) list will receive priority consideration and CTAP/ICTAP candidates will receive the appropriate consideration.

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name: _____ Date: ____/____/____

E-Mail Address: _____

Phone: Work: _____ Home: _____ Cell: _____

Current title/series/grade: _____

Please indicate the probable Series you would qualify for: _____

Preferred Duty Location: ☐ Baker City ☐ John Day ☐ Pendleton ☐ Other _____

Please indicate whether you are interested in:

Detail ☐ Permanent Position ☐ Both ☐

Are you currently a Federal employee? ☐ Yes ☐ No

IF YES:

Current Agency and location: _____

Type of Appointment: ☐ Permanent ☐ Reassignment

IF NO:

If you are not a current permanent (career or career conditional) employee are you eligible for appointment under any of the following special authorities:

Check all that apply:

- ☐ Person with Disabilities
- ☐ Veterans Readjustment
- ☐ Former Peace Corps Volunteer
- ☐ Disabled Veteran w/30% Compensable Disability
- ☐ Student Career Experience Program
- ☐ Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998
- ☐ Other Explain: _____

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